



**City Of San Diego
COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD
DISTRICT NINE
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 15, 2014

Reference: M-14-01-05

TO: Honorable City Councilmembers

FROM: Councilmember Marti Emerald

SUBJECT: Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee 2014

The Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods (PS&LN) Committee will have a full plate this year. In addition to ensuring greater public safety, overseeing libraries, parks and recreation centers, and fine tuning the Community Development Block Grant program, we will have new responsibilities addressing homelessness, veterans affairs, senior citizen services and consumer protection.

As Chair of the PS&LN Committee here are my priorities for 2014:

Police:

- ❖ Police recruitment and retention, as laid out in the Police Five Year Plan Update. Continue funding police academies to address the city's critical shortage of sworn police officers. Incorporate results of independent compensation study to create competitive salary/benefit packages for sworn officers. Add more non-sworn personnel.
- ❖ Amend Municipal Code to increase the number of hours worked by provisional employees, with intent of benefiting from continued service by retired law enforcement professionals.
- ❖ Aggressive new strategies to prevent gang crime and violence, with special trainings and joint meetings with PS&LN, San Diego Police and the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention.
- ❖ Increase support for community policing, investing in technology to improve communications so our officers and neighborhoods will be safer.
- ❖ Monitor and amend Municipal Code as applied to Alarm and Vice permits, Massage Therapists, Second-hand junk dealers, and our Code Enforcement statutes. Also monitor impacts of AB 109.

- ❖ Expand support for the Family Justice Center and its efforts to serve victims of domestic abuse.

Fire-Rescue/Lifeguards:

- ❖ Push goals for Fire-Rescue Five Year Assessment Plan with funding for new fire stations, continued academies, more equipment and training.
- ❖ Restore death and disability benefits for firefighters and lifeguards hired after Prop. B took effect and eliminated these benefits for new hires.
- ❖ Breaking ground on the Mission Valley Fire Station, January 23, 10:30am. Replacing trailer in Qualcomm parking lot. Hopefully the first of many new fire houses in San Diego. Please join us in celebrating this newest fire station.
- ❖ Work with the Mayor, Fire Chief, State Legislators and consultants to position our Fire-Rescue Department to compete for or assume the contract to provide Emergency Medical Services for City of San Diego.
- ❖ Approve a Five Year Assessment Plan for the City's Lifeguard Service. This would include recruitment, retention and continuing training for lifeguards, new equipment and facilities needed to support and grow our vital lifeguard service.

Emergency Preparedness:

- ❖ Update the City's Emergency Operations Plan. This would include partnering with other government and business entities, and the American Red Cross for best regional planning.
- ❖ Finalize Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross to use recreation centers, parks and other city owned property for emergency evacuation and shelter.
- ❖ Train an additional 200 residents (at least) in hands-only CPR and use of AED's through the Neighborhood Beat program.

Homeless Issues:

- ❖ Re-assess homeless population: numbers, demographics, reasons for homelessness. City census scheduled for late January with report to PS&LN.
- ❖ Regular reports from the Police Department Homeless Outreach Team and Serial Inebriate Program.

- ❖ Work with Homeless Task Force and other key partners to catalogue homeless services and create system of accountability for existing programs (public and non-government) that serve the homeless.
- ❖ Continue CDBG reforms to streamline the process to award HUD dollars to agencies that are most effective in getting the homeless off the streets and helping them with underlying issues.

Veterans Issues:

- ❖ Create a Veterans Roundtable to identify and address the needs of Veterans in San Diego.
- ❖ Veterans Employment. Work with partners to train returning veterans for successful careers in the public and private sector.
- ❖ Support a City Office of Veterans Affairs to provide consistent and reliable service to our returning service men and women and their families.

Senior and Consumer Services:

- ❖ Work with the Director of Neighborhood Services and community partners to support and expand senior nutrition and educational programs in neighborhoods.
- ❖ Work closely with the City Attorney and consumer groups to protect senior citizens and others from scams and other consumer crimes.
- ❖ Improve the safety of San Diegans and visitors who use or drive taxicabs. This would include advocacy for cameras in taxis, and amendments to our Municipal Code to build in stronger consumer protections for customers, drivers and taxi owners.

These are just some my priorities for the coming year. I look forward to hearing yours and adding them to our committee agenda to protect the public and build stronger, healthier communities in 2014. Questions? Please contact my contact Committee Consultant Marisa Berumen at 619.236.7754 or mberumen@sandiego.gov.

ME/mb

cc: Honorable Interim Mayor Gloria, City Attorney and IBA